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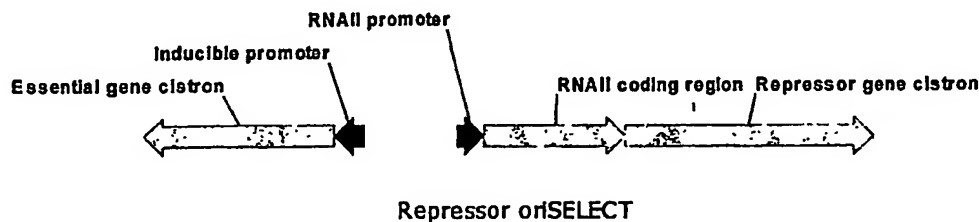
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(54) Title: PLASMID MAINTENANCE



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a system for stable maintenance of a plasmid, to host cells for use in this system and to methods of using the system to obtain a plasmid useful in medical applications. In particular, the invention provides transformed host cell containing: i) a chromosomal gene which inhibits cell growth; and ii) a plasmid encoding an antisense sequence, wherein the antisense sequence encoded by the plasmid inhibits the action of the chromosomal gene, thereby permitting cell growth and a method for stable maintenance of a plasmid in a host cell *in vivo*.